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February 7, 2001

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Your Reference: n/a  
Our Reference: 9611-16

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
U.S.A.

Dear Sirs:

Re: **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**  
**United States National Phase Entry of PCT/CA99/00746**  
**Entitled: HIV Vaccine**  
**Inventor: Chil-Yong Kang and Yan Li**

We are simultaneously entering national phase in the United States for PCT/CA99/00746. The present letter is to file a Preliminary Amendment to the application. Please amend the application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 8, 14, 20, 21, 24, 25 and 28 as follows:

a1 8. (Amended) A vaccine incorporating the retrovirus of [any one of] claim[s] 1[-7].

a2 14. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 9[-13] wherein the virus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.

a3 20. (Amended) A vaccine according to [any one of] claim[s] 15 [to 19] wherein the virus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.

21. (Amended) A vaccine according to [any one of] claim[s] 15 [to 20] further comprising an adjuvant.